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THE COMMON CAUSE

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

NON-PARTY. ***Societies and Branches in the Union*** **602.** **LAW-ABIDING.**

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HOW TO HELP.

The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time being suspended their political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war. They desire to help in the most effective way, by work rather than doles; to preserve the life of the race for the future by special care of mothers and young children; and generally to illustrate in their own lives the truth that the Suffragists' demand is for duties rather than for rights, and their ideal is the service of humanity. WILL YOU JOIN?

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Notes and News.

The Cost of War.

We are glad that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has decided to levy war taxes at once. It must be a long time before we pay the whole cost of the war, but it is right that we should begin now, and not leave the whole burden to the future. With regard to the way in which the money is to be raised, we have no criticism to make, except as to the tea tax. It seems wholly inequitable that the extra 3d. should be paid on all qualities, from the cheapest necessity of the very poor to the most expensive luxury of the rich. The tax on beer may conceivably lessen the amount drunk. In this connection, we cannot help hoping that the death of that great soldier, Lord Roberts, may have the effect of bringing home to people the appeal which he made—his last public utterance—against tempting our recruits to drink, in a way which will leave no one of us unmoved.

Women's Work in War Time.

We are grateful to Mr. Middlebrook for his appreciative reference in the House of Commons to the "valuable asset" that the women of the nation are in time of war. No one else seems to have remembered them, and we will not forget that one member did. But we confess to a gasp of astonishment when we reached the end of the passage. We were thinking of the relief-work, the nursing, the organising, women were doing. We were thinking, even more, perhaps, of the heroic toil of working-class wives and mothers whose husbands have gone to the front, and left them perforce to be both father and mother to their children. And then we reach the climax of Mr. Middlebrook's paragraph—"*They also serve who only stand and wait!*" Not a very apt description of our work, surely!

The Crime of Being a Soldier's Wife.

The defence offered by Mr. Harold Baker for the putting of soldiers' wives under police surveillance seems to us wholly inadequate. He admits that "all police orders are objectionable," and that this particular one had been withdrawn and amended. But it leaves the women still in the hands of the police, and it still regards the money paid to (or withheld from) them, not as a right, but as a form of charity. Presumably, this is why it is left in the hands of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association. It ought to be the business of the State. The S.S.F.A. has in the past nobly filled a breach which the Government should long ago have filled. The work is *not* charitable work, and if Mr. Baker is right in saying that "in all voluntary associations a certain type of inquiry passes into the stage of inquisition," that is an additional reason for the Government to take it over at once. We are glad to learn that a committee is promised to inquire into the whole business of payments to soldiers' and sailors' wives.

A Tribute to the Women.

We have received several reports in which local relief committees pay splendid tribute to the fine example given by the wives of soldiers and sailors to the rest of the community, notably from Leeds. We propose to publish an article on this subject, and should be glad of further authoritative reports from our readers.

A Vile Phrase.

We protest most strongly against the repetition of an intolerable insult to women, contained in Sir Ivor Herbert's speech. He asserted that "the great wastage" in the new army comes from two causes, and two causes only—"drink and women." There are, no doubt, many men who are incapable of understanding why women should resent the word "women" being used as another name for vice. They must, at least, learn that women do resent it, and that most bitterly.

A Real Temperance Reform.

Instead of trying to persuade the public that something is being done for temperance by silly restrictions applied to the more temperate sex—for, after all, at the worst, women as a whole drink less than men—we wish the Government would take its courage in both hands, take over the public-houses, and administer them on the lines of the Public-house Trust Company.

S.N.A.

If food and temperance drinks were supplied, and it were no one's interest to push the sale of alcohol, the public-house would become a place where men and women could go without danger. Perhaps they might even supply entertainments in places where other buildings are not available for the purpose. It cannot be beyond human ingenuity to make the public-house in Great Britain approach the standard of the same institution abroad.

And Another!

It is interesting to hear that the liquor interest in America has been frankly combating Women's Suffrage as an enemy. We are informed that the organ of the trade proudly boasts that it has defeated all temperance measures up till now, and is determines to defeat Women's Suffrage also!

Army Clothing and Sweating.

We notice with amazement that, in response to a question, Mr. Baker said that all contracts for army clothing contained the Fair Wages Clause, and "any supposed case of its non-observance has been referred to the Trade Board." With regard to shirt-making, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst was informed from the Board of Trade that "no minimum rates have been fixed," and "no such rates are in operation." It would be interesting to know what is gained, therefore, by "referring" cases of sweating to the Trade Board. The case which Miss Pankhurst was investigating was a sub-contract for the army.

Tipperary Rooms.

The fact that women want something more hopeful than police surveillance, plus a good deal of scolding, is taking a firm hold on public opinion. The result is the opening of "Tipperary Rooms." Like those at Hammersmith, opened a little while ago by Lady Jellicoe, they are at once a club and a crêche, and (on two evenings a week) a concert-hall. The only difficulty in the way of the new movement seems to be that of finding suitable rooms. Indeed, this is a difficulty which is already becoming acute in other ways, now that the cold weather has come, and tents must be replaced by more solid accommodation. We understand that the Y.M.C.A. is proposing to build 200 halls, and is appealing for money for this purpose.

Entertaining the Troops.

The Actresses' Franchise League is doing a splendid work in organising entertainments for the troops now in camps. The long winter evenings will be hard to fill, and variety entertainments, which require practically no "setting," can be organised at once. They will be a boon to the men, and will keep employed a number of people who have been peculiarly hard hit by the war. Perhaps when the thing has been proved a success, the Government may be induced to make it a grant. Meanwhile the Actresses' Franchise League, with their usual cheery optimism, are plunging in and getting the work done.

Their first performance took place at the Royal Engineers' Theatre, Aldershot, on November 16th, and proved an immense success. A varied programme was most enthusiastically received, the men joining in the choruses lustily. Further performances will be given week by week at Aldershot, and will be begun next week at Colchester. It is hoped to start soon at Grantham and Wareham, and on Salisbury Plain when the recreation room there is ready. An appeal for entertainments has come from Ireland, and it is intended to extend the scheme to the Territorial forces.

Employment of Belgian Refugees.

The Local Government Board has not, we are thankful to say, decided that our Belgian guests are to be forbidden to work. They have, on the contrary, come to the conclusion that there are industries in which they might be employed without hurting others, and recommend that the Labour Exchanges should deal with them as far as possible on these lines.

To Combat Venereal Disease.

A National Council for combating venereal diseases has been founded, and we welcome it warmly. Several distinguished physicians—both men and women—are on its committee, and experts on the social side, like Mr. Coote, Mrs. James Gow, and Mrs. Gotto Dr. Macalister, speaking at the Council Meeting, referred to the educational campaign being carried on in Liverpool. There was some fear that it might be given up on account of the war, and we are glad to know that it has been decided to carry it on, at least, among women and girls. Women are even more ignorant than men on this subject, and their ignorance—when they are mothers—perhaps even more disastrous.

SUFFRAGE VICTORIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

Two more States have been won for Women's Suffrage in America—Montana, Nevada—and a third, Nebraska, may possibly be won. The results of the elections on November 3rd are not yet complete, but victory is announced in Montana and Nevada. Both States are surrounded by Women's Suffrage States, and have seen its good results at close quarters.

In Nevada the campaign has had to encounter tremendous opposition from the liquor interests, gamblers, and corrupt politicians. The Labour unions, churches, teachers' organisations, State Federation of Women's Clubs, and all organisations of women supported the Women's Suffrage amendment to the Constitution. Eighty per cent. of the women in many countries signed petitions in support of it. Both Legislative Houses passed the amendment by large majorities.

The situation in Montana is similar. Montana is a State of great ranches, lonely mining camps, and widely scattered towns and cities. The problem, therefore, of reaching 100,000 voters scattered over this region has been a serious one. Montana is called the "wettest" State in the Union. Never in any other State have the liquor interests made so open, direct, and determined a fight in a Woman Suffrage amendment. Their official organ, *The Forum*, in discussing it, said:—

"All the saloon men in the State are lined up for united effort on behalf of the business, and it called on not only the State, but the National Liquor Associations for help."

The Montana Trade Protection Association sent out over the country a circular calling for funds, and boasting that so far it had succeeded in defeating every temperance measure, and was now preparing to oppose Women's Suffrage. Notwithstanding all the efforts of the liquor trade, the farmers and Labour unions have carried Women's Suffrage on the referendum.

Nebraska has shown a great deal of popular support for Women's Suffrage. The recent announcement of W. J. Bryan, Secretary of State, that he is in favour of Women's Suffrage has had an immense influence.

The States in which it is reported that the Women's Suffrage amendment has been lost are:—N. and S. Dakota, Ohio, and Missouri.

The States in which Women's Suffrage has already been won are:—

Wyoming	1869	California	1911
Colorado	1893	Arizona	1912
Idaho	1896	Kansas	1912
Utah	1896	Oregon	1912
Washington	1910	Alaska (Territory) ...	1913

Illinois, 1913 (Municipal and Presidential Suffrage only).

NEWS FROM ABROAD.

ICELAND.

The Althing, or Parliament, in granting partial Suffrage to the women of Iceland, decided that women over forty years of age will have the same political rights enjoyed by men over twenty-five years old, with the stipulation that for the women electors the required age is to be gradually lowered on each registration until it arrives at twenty-five too.

GERMANY.

The warmest thanks have been sent from the German W.S.S. to all the British Suffrage Societies who have rendered help to German women in difficulties in Great Britain since the war began, and they join with us in the hope that before long hostilities may come to an end.

RUSSIA.

Necessity has swept away the hindrances debarring Russian women from certain professions. They have had to cope with heavy agricultural work, without which famine would have assailed Russia next year. The Imperial Duma has passed a Bill admitting them to the posts of lecturers and professors at Universities, and as teachers in boys' schools and colleges, and further, has decreed that in these positions they are to be paid salaries equal to those of men.

A WOMAN STATION MASTER.

We learn that Mrs. Pelham, wife of Sergeant Pelham, of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, is now the Station Master at Samares Station, in Jersey. She took over the position when her husband went to the front.

MARGUERITE COPPIN,

Belgium's Woman-Poet.

Among the distinguished Belgian visitors who have come to reside among us during these troubled times, is a woman writer of remarkable power and versatility, whose works ought to become as well-known in this country as they are in France, where they have met with keen appreciation. Together with her mother, Marguerite Coppin left her beautiful home in Bruges some weeks ago, when it became clear that she could no longer carry on her profession as writer and lecturer in Belgium, and, in a quiet retreat in London, she is busily engaged in writing and teaching, several of her poems, as well as articles, having already appeared in our press.

"If it were not for the terrible war," Mlle. Coppin told me, "and the thought of the sufferings of my poor countrymen, I could be very happy here. Everybody is so kind and loving to us refugees, that the wave of kindness keeps my atmosphere clear. Of course, I miss my home—we left behind us all our pictures, and my library of over 700 books—a loss which cannot be replaced—but by good chance I have with me copies of two of my works."

I expressed a hope that an English version of these would shortly appear, and was told that a publisher had already asked her for a translation of "Contes sur l'Histoire de Belgique."

Speaking of the cherished art treasures which she had been obliged to leave behind, Mlle. Coppin told me that the Belgians have a much keener appreciation of pictures than we appear to have in this country, and that one of the things which struck her most in our houses was the lack of paintings. It surprised her that even quite well-to-do people here seem content with photographs and engravings, whereas in Belgium the first thought of people who wish to make a beautiful home is to procure good pictures and sculpture, even before choice furniture.

But though the Belgians excel us in painting and music they lag behind in literature. Mlle. Coppin's career, and the distinction she has gained abroad, are exceptional. M. Arthur Baland, in "La Clairière" (10 Mai, 1909), summarises as follows her place in literature:—

"Marguerite Coppin est la *poétesse* belge. C'est le plus brillant joyau de sa couronne. Elle chant avec maitrise tout ce que chantent les poètes, mais il s'y mêle une mélancholie resignée, révélatrice de beauté morale, le désir de creuser le ...ème de l'existence pour en pénétrer les secrets et de rattacher ses symboles à ces puissants instincts de bonté, d'amour, que nous portons en nous plus ou moins glorieusement; elle s'est, en outre, signalée comme critique d'art et de littérature, par une vision claire, juste et pénétrante et cette probité qui tend de plus en plus à disparaitre. C'est ce triple épanouissesment de sa nature féminine qui lui valut d'être remarquée unanimement et l'estime aussi des meilleurs: Paul Adam, André Theuriet, Sully-Prudhomme, Mauclair, Georges Barral, Van Hamel, Guy Thorne, Etzer Vilaire, MMmes. Dandet, Flammarion, Lya Berger, pour ne citir que les étrangers."

Jeanne Hermans.] [Bruges.

Mlle. Coppin told me many interesting things about social life in Belgium, which I should like to set down if space allowed, but it was with some difficulty that I persuaded her to speak of her own work. The book most dear to her heart is a little volume of poems entitled "Maman," in which, with singular simplicity and tenderness, she expresses her love and gratitude towards the mother to whose interest in her art and professional life she owes so much. Madame Coppin has herself had experience in teaching, and has helped her daughter in many ways. "My mother is my memory," explained Mlle. Coppin, as she referred to Madame Coppin for some forgotten name, "Whenever I forget anything I turn to her, and it is wonderful how she remembers."

This little volume was awarded a silver medal in 1910, and another volume "Nouveaux Poèmes," won a gold medal in 1912. Earlier volumes were "Poèmes de femme," and "Triomphal Amour." In 1895 the Academy of Hainault awarded Mlle. Coppin a medal for her poems, and in 1909 she was given the title of "Laureate," a special literature prize being created in her honour. But recognition of her talent was not confined to Belgium. Women cannot be members of the Academy, but the French Government awarded Mlle. Coppin the title of *Officier d'Académie*.

In prose also, Mlle. Coppin has won distinction. Her first novel, *Solesme seul ayme*, published in 1891, gained the first prize of the *Union littéraire: Le Charme de Bruges*, and *Contes sur l'Histoire de Belgique*, a singularly vivid collection of tales dealing with stirring episodes in Belgian history, won medals at the *Exposition Universelle de Liége*, in 1905. Other novels are *Initiation*, *Némésis*, *Dr. Benoidin*.

In addition to her literary work, Mlle. Coppin has for many years been engaged in teaching, having had numerous pupils among English people living in Bruges, and coming from England to be coached. One of these pupils, whom she taught four years ago, as a lad, is coming to her again for lessons in French conversation, being now a lieutenant in the army. Already Mlle. Coppin has several pupils in London, but she would be glad to hear of others. To students who wish to acquire a literary style in writing French, or to study with a view to translation, her lessons offer a special opportunity, since it is rarely that one meets with a teacher with such a mastery of the niceties both of English and French, and such a wide knowledge of literature and history.

The following charming poem is taken from *Poèmes de Femme*:—

Le Beau.

Il ne faut point chercher si loin le lac d'azur
Et le mont et le fleuve, et les sombres vallées
Pour permettre à son cœur les vastes envolées
Et cet amour du Beau, si puissant et si pur.

Mais simplement lever les yeux; et sur le toit
Regarder de la rue obscurément étroite
L'étroit morceau de ciel, qui scintille et miroite
De topaze et de pourpre au soleil qui décroit;

Parfois un lourd nuage y glisse, triste, obscur;
Et tous les soirs, au moins une étoile y vient luire
Et l'infini du Beau, qui ne peut se traduire,
Vibre entier dans cet astre et ce morceau d'azur!

Ah! le rêve est partout—et partout l'idéal—
Et partout le bonheur—pour qui veut le comprendre.
La vie est si remplie: et la main qu'on sait tendre
Peut saisir tant de mains; et guérir tant de mal!

Et les yeux bien ouverts, les yeux qui veulent voir,
Peuvent tant admirer! Mais, que de fleurs on passe
Qu'on ne regarde pas! Et que de joies on chasse
Qui naissent tous les jours du plus humble devoir!

Cueillez toutes les fleurs, chacune asa beauté,
Et regardez le ciel, fut-ce aux fenêtres closes;
Et cherchez—comme en juin vous chercherez les roses—
Les tristes, pour leur voir un éclat de gaité;

Et prenez à la Vie avec tout votre cœur
Tout ce qu'elle vous offre. Et vivant aux coins sombres,
Levez les yeux, sachant qu'au-dessus de ces ombres
Le ciel brille—et l'amour—dans leur pure splendeur.

HELP FOR CLERICAL WORKERS

Instead of finding temporary work for women clerks thrown out of employment through the war, the Central Committee on Women's Employment have decided to give, in certain cases, training together with maintenance.

Fifty scholarships offered by Clark's College have therefore been accepted by the committee for women and girls between the ages of 16 and 25. These scholarships will provide free training for business or secretarial work. Other arrangements are being made by the committee to give education of a similar character to another fifty typists, and classes in special subjects to fifty skilled workers.

The pupils will be given 10s. a week maintenance during training, and if necessary expenses up to 4s. a week. Only those who have actually been employed as clerks will be eligible, the committee having no desire to increase the number of people in the clerical profession, but only to help those already in it.

But what of the Efficient?

This scheme, however, does not meet the case of the skilled clerical workers, for whom employment might so well be found in connection with the many relief agencies throughout the country. In our issue of November 6th we called attention to a private fund which was being used to supply efficient secretaries to help any new organisations that cannot afford to pay assistants, and we learn that ten secretaries have already been supplied in this way. Could not part of the Queen's Fund be employed in a similar manner?

In Parliament.

Parliament opened on Wednesday, November 11th. In the debate, which was chiefly on the conduct of the war, press censorship, &c., the question of the amount and administration of payment to soldiers' wives, widows, and mothers, was discussed. A deep impression was created by Mr. Henderson's criticism of the Government policy on this point.

November 11th.

Mr. Middlebrook (S. Leeds, L.), seconding the address on the King's Speech, said that "the attitude of the women of this country had been a valuable asset in steadying the determination and resolve of our people. . . . Of the women we may say, 'They also serve who only stand and wait.'"

Mr. Bonar Law (Bootle, U.) criticised the Government proposals as to soldiers' dependents. He pointed out that a widow formerly got 5s. pension and 2s. from the Patriotic Fund. To offer her 7s. 6d. was, therefore, only an addition of 6d. He suggested the appointment of a small committee, representative of all parties in the House, to go into the matter and draw up a plan which the Government might accept.

The Prime Minister (E. Fife, L.) defended the 7s. 6d., on the ground that "highly subsidised widows" would compete disastrously with other women in the labour market, and "give encouragement to sweating." The Government would only too gladly welcome assistance and co-operation of such an inquiry as Mr. Bonar Law suggested.

November 12th.

Mr. Arthur Henderson (Durham, Barnard Castle, Lab.) called attention to "the deplorable conditions" under which many recruits were still living, and to stoppages made from the 6s. 8d. a week pay, stated in an army form to be "clear of all expenses." He also protested against the way in which wives of soldiers and sailors had in some cases been "shamefully insulted" by "misguided representatives of charitable organizations," who "not only meddled unnecessarily, but muddled most severely." Even worse than such intervention was the invitation mentioned in a letter of the Home Secretary to the police to assist the Army Council "in the measures which are being taken to provide for the withholding of separation allowances payable to the wives or dependents of soldiers in the event of serious misconduct on the part of the recipients." He yielded to no one in his desire to promote sobriety, but he would oppose any proposal to place the wives of our soldiers under any such shameful supervision by the police. Although it was to be regretted that some soldiers' wives did not spend their money wisely, they were not alone in that respect, and even hon. members did not spend their money to the satisfaction of everybody.

Mr. H. Baker (Accrington, L.), replying for the War Office, defended the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association, and pointed out that, though its work had not been equally tactful or effective in all districts, it had rendered valuable services under difficult conditions. As to the police order, it was devised by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Home Office simply in the interests of the women themselves. All allowances and pensions were liable to be withdrawn in cases of grave misconduct. The order was issued so that a woman might be warned and given a chance of avoiding the loss of the allowance. The order was strictly limited to cases in which misconduct had already arisen. In conclusion, he said that the officials, suddenly faced by a problem that could not be foreseen, had done their duty as well as they were able. The main grievance of delay in the payment of allotments had been largely met, and would, he thought, in the next few days entirely vanish.

November 16th.

Military Camps and Bad Characters.

Lord Claude Hamilton asked whether his Majesty's Government will introduce and pass a measure empowering magistrates to issue warrants for the summary arrest of women of notorious bad character who are infesting the neighbourhood of the various military camps, and to empower the magistracy to commit such women to a hospital or reformatory until the close of the war.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. McKenna) replied that he feared it would not be possible to deal effectively with this evil in the way suggested. "We must rely partly on the organised efforts which are being made by voluntary women workers, and partly on the firm enforcement of the existing law by the police and the magistrates."

Health of the Army.

In the course of the debate on the Army Supplementary Estimates—

Sir Ivor Herbert (S. Monmouthshire, L.) maintained that there was a great wastage going on in the new army, owing to drink and the social evil, and urged that administrative measures should be taken to check this state of things.

Sir J. Whittaker (Yorkshire, Spen Valley, L.) also urged the Government to take steps "to promote the sobriety of our soldiers in this time of stress and temptation, and to check the folly of the public in tempting these young fellows in the way they do."

The Prime Minister said, in the course of his reply:—

"On the whole I do not believe that there has ever been brought together a body of men who have comported themselves so well and shown such a regard to sobriety and decency of conduct as the new recruits for the Army. Undoubtedly these men, as is always the case when a large aggregation of comparatively young men are brought together in this casual way, are exposed to temptation, to which some of them probably are strangers, and to which now and again individuals succumb. But I believe, if you take the average standards of conduct, that it is worthy of the country and worthy of the cause. But my hon. friend may be quite sure that the Adjutant-General, in conjunction with the civil authorities, is taking every possible step to remove all temptation, and to secure the highest possible standard of sobriety and conduct in these troops."

November 17th.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in making his financial statement, prophesied that after the war there would be "a period of re-construction," followed by one of extreme industrial depression. He hoped capital would be set free by a large decrease in armaments; but in any case the position must be extremely serious. It was therefore right and courageous for the country to anticipate that critical time by beginning to pay for the war at once. Income-tax and super-tax were to be doubled; 17s. 3d. a barrel was to be put on beer, and 3d. on tea.

Reviews.

False Gods. By Dr. Percy Dearmer. (A. R. Mowbray & Co. 3s. 6d.)

Dr. Dearmer's book was written before the war, but its argument is singularly apt to our present conditions. Its thesis is the worship of false gods—a worship which is not confined to those ordinarily called "idolaters," or even to polytheists, but practised by all of us in our degree, since we all imagine less nobly of God than that He is pure and perfect love. We persist in thinking of Him as cruel, vindictive, jealous, inconstant; and thus thinking, we worship false gods, and degrade ourselves to their level. Dr. Dearmer's book would save us all from militarism, the more that it is not aimed at one form only, but at the bad theology which issues in the many forms of militarism which dominate our modern civilisation. Incidentally, the book also shows that English is still a noble and a gracious tongue. But why does Dr. Dearmer try to persuade us to return to the older use of the word "soul"? It is true we want something to express its meaning; but a word which has been ennobled by use, instead of degraded or weakened, is too rare a phenomenon to be restored to its lower place.

Six Weeks at the War. By Millicent, Duchess of Sutherland. (The Times. 1s. net.)

A graphic and exciting account of the adventures of the Duchess of Sutherland and her party of English nurses in Belgium, where they did excellent work.

Books and Pamphlets Received.

Our Teeth and Our Health. By H. Uren Oliver. (Thomas Murby. Cloth, 2s. net. Paper boards, 1s. net.)

The Other Illusion. By Captain Sir Francis Vane, Bt. (National Labour Press. 6d.)

The Great Society: A Psychological Analysis. By Graham Wallas. (Macmillan. 7s. 6d. net.)

Physiology and Hygiene for Girls' Schools and Colleges. By E. S. Chesser, M.B., (Bell. 2s.)

Sick Room Cookery Simplified. By Mabel Baker. (Bell. 1s. 6d. net.)

How the War Will End. By F. L. Ranson. (Crystal Press. 1s. net.)

Hymns for Use During the War. Collected by Dr. Jane Walker. (Women Printing Society.)

False Gods. By Percy Dearmer, D.D. (Mowbrays. 3s. 6d. net.)

Shall this War End German Militarism. By Norman Angel, and The Morrow of the War. (Union of Democratic Control. 1d. each.)

Women and War. By Olive Schreiner. (Fisher Unwin. 6d. net.)

War Poems—Get Behind a Gun. By J. Beynon Nicholas. The Lion. By Arthur Playford.

The Wife of Sir Isaac Harman. By H. G. Wells. (Macmillan. 6s.)

How the War Came About. By J. Holland Rose, Litt. D., and Britain's Duty To-day. By Edward Lyttelton, D.D. (Patriotic Publishing Co. Each 4d.)

The Origins of the Great War. By H. N. Brailsford, and War: The Offspring of Fear. By Hon. Bertrand Russell. (Union of Democratic Control. Each 1d.)

Force or Faith: A Study of the Ideas Behind the Present War. By G. Currie Martin, M.A., B.D. (Fircroft Central Council. 2d.)

The Occupations of Women. Summary Tables arranged by L. Wyatt Papworth and Dorothy M. Zimmern, M.A. (Women's Industrial Council. 6d.)

A "Water-Fly's" Wooing. Annesley Kenealy. (Stanley Paul. 6s.)

"Facts for Patriots." (National Food Reform Association. 3d.)

Our Outlook as Changed by the War. Alice Gardner. (W. Heffer. 2d.)

Correspondence.

A large amount of correspondence is unavoidably held over. It is necessary to remind our readers that there is no editorial responsibility for opinions expressed in the correspondence columns.

WAR AND PEACE.

MADAM,—May I copy your correspondent, Emily A. Cooke, and also quote from Ruskin, who wrote these words: "Let but every Christian lady who has conscience before God vow that she will mourn, at least outwardly, for His killed creatures. Your praying is useless, and your Church-going mere mockery of God, if you have not plain obedience in you enough for this. . . . There is not a war in the world—no, nor an injustice, but you women are answerable for it; not in that you have not provoked it, but in that you have not hindered. . . . There is no suffering, no injustice, no misery in the earth, but the guilt of it lies lastly with you."

Is that reproach true, and if it be true must not all women strive their uttermost to assist in dispelling the illusion that "we have to kill to keep ourselves alive," as your correspondent puts it? Women's work in time of war should be a preparation for peace which really *will* be peace, and to that end an exchange of views is greatly to be desired.

SARAH SCOTT.

MADAM,—May I add one word on the discussion now going on in your columns on Women and Peace? Most people, it would appear, even ardent pacifists, admit that the present disastrous war must be brought to a conclusion through military methods. But need that fact deter those women who look upon war as a relic of barbarism from trying to educate opinion in that direction now? Surely no craven fear of prejudicing ourselves in the eyes of statesmen or the "man in the street" should influence us in a matter which, as it seems to me, touches the very springs of our movement. For do we not base our claim to enfranchisement on the assumption that questions of Government should be settled by an appeal to reason and intelligence, and not to force of arms? The time may not be ripe for us to say this as a body, but it never will be ripe unless those of us who hold this conviction have the courage to speak out.

ANNIE VILLIERS.

MR. W. J. AINSWORTH writes: "It seems to me that Ruskin's argument comes to this: a great plague decimates a nation, it calls forth many noble qualities, devotion of doctors, heroism of nurses, generosity and self-sacrifice from many others; therefore plagues are the 'foundation' of these 'high virtues,' and should be encouraged.—Q.E.D. . . . Let there be no mistake. Britain is giving her sons to this war, not because she believes in war or militarism, but because she hates them. It is because we believe in peace and righteousness as so profoundly, so vitally, necessary to the progress of humanity, that we think they are worth the tremendous sacrifices we are making, and shall continue to make, until a lasting and righteous peace is achieved. 'War is hell,' so say the soldiers who are in it, and if we give our sons to this war it is only that in the spirit of another and nobler victim they may deliver those who through fear of war and the war lords are subject unto bondage. This is a war to abolish war as the main factor in European life, and the end is worth the means."

DR. ETHEL WILLIAMS, in an interesting letter, writes: "Truly great nations, like great individuals, or average individuals for that matter, have found their greatness in strife, and in the early history of nations this strife has taken the form of war between different peoples. But knowledge and the march of civilisation have opened out before us opportunities for struggle in which truth of aim, strength of purpose and thought, and unselfishness of individual dealing can be learned as effectively as in wasteful war, where we throw away all of stable social order these virtues may have brought us. The search for knowledge, the strife with nature, the organising of our industrial forces, serve to bring out and develop in individuals and peoples alike the virtues your correspondent desires at least, as well as the bloody fratricidal strife which is disfiguring Europe to-day. Mrs. Cooke tells us the war has acted as a tonic, and that this fact is exhibited in the very walk of people in our streets. But these people are engaged in the industrial struggle, in caring for the poor and sick, the unfortunate; in fighting nature with knowledge, in that very strife which lies always at our doors, and cries out, in peace and war alike, for volunteers to engage in it. It is because men and women are awakening to this battle that they are looking alert and full of energy, not because their brothers are engaged in killing their cousins on the soil of France and Belgium under circumstances of peculiar horror."

GERMAN METHODS ADVOCATED.

MADAM,—Sir Almroth Wright, in a long article in *The Times*, strongly condemns the military authorities for their unwillingness to make all men submit to inoculation against disease. Surely the military authorities are wiser than he, and know full well that any attempt at compulsion would put an instantaneous stop to recruiting. It is just that large-minded, honourable recognition of the free citizen by the military authorities which has drawn, and will continue to draw, every available man to the colours, and will dispose them to adopt any measures advocated by those they trust and respect.

Sir A. Wright would have us believe that we owe the present war to our British aversion to compulsory service; but at best compulsory service could only have delayed matters somewhat and prolonged an intolerable situation. Sir Almroth misreads the signs of the times. He ignores the world-wide revolt from that vicious spirit of domineering tyranny (exemplified by German militarism) which is one of the redeeming features of the present calamity and leads us to hope that we shall emerge from it humbler and wiser: more ready to listen to the teaching of the lowly-hearted Carpenter of Nazareth: to take Him for our Master in truth, and to treat all humankind as brethren indeed.

GERTRUDE BAYLEY.

SOLDIERS' WIDOWS.

MADAM,—I should like to make a few comments on your notes on soldiers' widows in last week's issue. You say that 7s. 6d. is an inadequate allowance for a childless widow, because it is insufficient for her to live upon. But why should a young and able-bodied woman be entirely dependent on the State for the rest of her life, as if she was a helpless being, incapable of wage-earning? There is no doubt that in the demand for full maintenance for able-bodied childless widows there lies a desire to keep these women out of the labour market altogether. Is this because maintenance is more honourable than work, or because it is cruel to expect a widow to go out to work? It is absurd to say that full maintenance must be given to prevent undercutting, because if need does not drive a widow to work, then loneliness will do so, and the less need she has of money, the more likely she is to work for anything that she is offered.

No one wants to press theories of this kind at a moment when our one desire is to deal generously with the men who are giving their lives for their country. I only want the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE to realise what is involved in the assumption that because a woman has lost her husband she must therefore be pensioned off, as though her whole work in the world was necessarily completed.

C. DOROTHEA RACKHAM.

ALLEGED ATROCITIES.

MADAM,—May I thank your correspondent, James McKenzie, for his investigation of alleged German atrocities? Things can never come right between English and Germans till we try to believe the best—generally true—instead of the worst—generally false—about each other. Might I suggest that Mr. McKenzie form a small committee to investigate any cases sent, and that the reports which have made such welcome "copy" in our press be equally called in question. I suggest a committee, because an organised body has more weight than a single individual. Again, I thank Mr. McKenzie, as anyone else, who would make "good of ill, and friends of foes."

L. E. TURQUAND.

SHALL CLARISSA KNIT?

MADAM,—It takes 4½ oz. of wool to knit an average size pair of socks; and good wool now costs 3d. an oz. Some can be obtained at 2½d.; but it never seems worth while to use any but good quality wool for hand knitting. Lady Selborne, in her letter on "Voluntary Work" in THE COMMON CAUSE of November 6th, says: "For 8d. you can get enough wool to make a pair of socks." I shall be very much obliged if she will be so kind as to give precise information as to the kind of wool to which she refers, and where it can be bought. Retailers frankly say that ready-made socks at 1s. are a mixture of wool and cotton.

L. MEADE-KING.

[We have received reams of correspondence in which Lady Selborne's wool and socks are traced through incredible economic paths, with astounding economic results. On the whole, our correspondents are of opinion that Clarissa will do well to knit in her odd moments, but not when she can find something better to do.—ED., C.C.]

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Notice.—*This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by midday on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager,* The Common Cause.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

A Sacred Trust.

A heavy responsibility rests on all non-combatants in this time of war. They cannot fight; they must accept the blood-sacrifice of those who can and do. They must look on while others go to the front, and while they do so, must incur a debt. War is a national act, and we are all of the nation; but only some of us are engaged in the war, though all have their part in the national responsibility.

From this responsibility women are not exempt. We have heard it said that, because they have no votes, they have no responsibility. From this claim we absolutely dissent. In the matter of foreign politics votes count for very little. Our relations to other powers are not submitted to Parliament, and it is not the House of Commons which ratifies treaties or declares wars. Even the choice of the Government which does these things is not now in any real sense a power. The doctrine of "continuity in foreign policy" has robbed the choice of a Government or of a Foreign Minister of much of its significance, and whatever party is in power, the traditions of the Foreign Office remain the same.

This very fact makes it peculiarly sensitive to public opinion in times of crisis. The Foreign Secretary can hardly thrust responsibility for his actions on to his party, or on to the House of Commons. He—or he and his Government—are immediately responsible, and when any momentous decision has to be made, the support of public opinion is essential to them. This has been made very clear of late. Sir Edward Grey did not take a vote in the House of Commons on the question of a declaration of neutrality or of war, but he has left nothing undone to ensure the support, even the enthusiastic support, of the people at large, for the course he felt himself bound to pursue. The Government has, in speech and writing, explained its foreign policy. Official correspondence of the highest importance has been published in a White Paper, and re-published, with elucidation and explanation in a penny blue-book, which may actually be seen, not in booksellers' shops only, but hawked about the streets of London. It is clear that the Prime Minister and Sir Edward Grey are intensely—and wisely—anxious to have the full weight of public opinion behind them in what they have done and have still to do. Not only is this true of our own country, but great efforts are made on both sides to win the moral support of neutrals also. It is curious, and for our purpose deeply significant, to see how conscious Germany is of this necessity. She also leaves nothing undone to influence public opinion in America, Holland, and elsewhere, in her favour.

Women have their share in the formation of public opinion. We will not stop to weigh the measure of their responsibility with that of men. In many ways it must be less. They have not command of the press, nor of the same platforms. They have been taught perpetually that they can have, as men have, no knowledge of foreign affairs. Yet every human being has influence of some sort, and every human being is, at this moment, using it to build up that public opinion to which our statesmen make appeal. This is our great responsibility, and we cannot evade it for a moment.

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We are bound, therefore, to consider what is the cause of war. We cannot be satisfied only to heal its wounds so far as we may, though this healing is a duty from which no woman will dream of holding back. We must, from very pity, ask ourselves why such wounds must be. Some of us will, no doubt, believe that wars are inevitable, and the fighting instinct too deep-rooted in human nature ever to be cut out. Nearly all of us, probably, believe that *this* war was inevitable, and could not honourably have been avoided. But no student of history can say that *all* the wars that mar its course were inevitable, and no one, surely, will claim that statesmen have always tried *every* means of avoiding them, including that best and surest of means —a just, an honourable, and considered peace. To look at history is to read, in the terms of one treaty after another, the prophecy of future wars. The sore places of Europe which fester continually, till they break out in war, were created by a wanton disregard of national feelings, by that insolent and brutal treatment of human beings which regards them as property to be handed over as part of the terms of peace. Fear has its part in war-making, and misunderstanding, and haste. Even if they are right who believe that war must always be the last appeal, much has yet to be imagined and tested, of means by which that dread appeal may be more and more rarely made.

But because we have not yet sought or found other and better ways of settling questions of national right and wrong, men are fighting and dying at the front. For centuries they have done so, but never on so terrible a scale as now. And, by a tragic irony, the advance of civilisation, which has made war more frightful than ever, has made the men who make it far more sensitive to its horrors. Who can have failed to notice that our soldiers are far less "militarist"—far less full of hate and anger —than most of our newspapers? To talk to a wounded soldier is again and again to be impressed with the humanity, the simplicity, the gentleness of our "fighting units." These men are not drunk with slaughter! To go to the front has been to very many of them the most terrible duty life could ask of them —a duty that nothing less than an absolute conviction of its necessity has prevailed on them to fulfil.

Are we to exact this sacrifice for ever?

We ourselves cannot go. We cannot share it with them. In that sense, what woman—in spite of all the anguish of suffering that war exacts of her—what woman will not approve from her heart Mrs. Fawcett's statement that, in war, "women have the best of it"? Because, whatever we are called upon to suffer, we are not called to inflict suffering, but to heal it.

Is it not, then, a sacred trust for us to build up public opinion in such wise that if and when our rulers are in a position to consider terms of peace, they will find behind them a great and mighty force making for justice, for self-control, for wisdom? The peace that will then be made will be lasting or passing in proportion as it holds to these principles. If our leaders are to make it (as we hope) they will have in their minds the noble ideals laid down by Mr. Asquith in speech after speech. This will be what they desire to do. But their power to do it will depend on the public opinion behind them. A vindictive, a cruel, or—perhaps most of all—an ignorant public opinion, will hamper or even paralyse the wisest diplomacy. Ignorance is, above all, the enemy, for if we have not considered the causes which make wars, it is certain that we shall never be able to apply the principles which make for peace.

There are people who feel that to speak of these things is a kind of treachery to those who are fighting abroad. These people forget that the second Balkan War broke out because those who were victorious in the first had not thought out their own problems sufficiently. There have not been wanting prophets who prophesy the same for us. Shall we exact this sacrifice a second time? Certainly it is not easy now to give one's heart and brain to anything but the work of relief. But we are asking the impossible of our soldiers abroad, and they are achieving it. Let us also ask it of ourselves, and achieve it, too! The men in the trenches cannot be thinking out the problem of why they are there, or how they may not come there again. They have been sent, we are told, to put an end to war; they fight to establish peace. It is a sacred trust to every man and woman who is not fighting to see that that sacrifice shall not be in vain. How great it is, and how heroic, we with all our love and striving can only very dimly understand. But the dullest of us has felt something of the call to sacrifice to-day, and something of the passion of self-forgetting pity for the sufferings of the world. Let us convert our feeling into the thought which moves the world because it is informed with emotion, and moves it in the right direction because it is not emotion only. Let us say with knowledge in the future, "*Without inexorable cause this should not be!*"

Woman's Part in War Time.

Care of the Home.

We have received from Dr. Helen Wilson a suggestion which might be worked in with Mrs. Harley's Active Service Cadet Corps, described in our last issue. Some of the girls coming to the recreation rooms which the N.U. proposes to open might be interested in the idea of qualifying themselves as home-makers; and instruction in cooking, &c., might be made one of the branches of the Corps' activities. There is room for both schemes:—

"The most precious national service that women can render, whether in peace or war, is the care of the home, the guardianship of the family. On this point Suffragists and Anti-suffragists are agreed. Cannot our young women be induced to 'enlist' for this national service? Can they not be shown that the most practical service they can render to the absent brother, or husband, or sweetheart, is to ensure him a more perfect home when he comes back to it? This means training.

Would it be possible to form a Women's Army, modelled, say, on the Territorial Force, with some features borrowed from the Boy Scouts? The recruits for this army would include those women between eighteen and thirty-five years of age, who are prepared to give regularly a certain number of hours per week to learning or teaching the arts of home-making, a term which would include cookery, sewing, domestic economy, the care of children, &c. This army would be officered by educated women, possessed of some amount of organising ability, as well as domestic knowledge. They would find in the work a task more difficult than shirtmaking, but free from the drawback that it is taking work which poorer women need. Trained teachers of domestic economy might be employed as adjutants, to give their whole time to the work. The success of the scheme would largely depend on the non-commissioned officers, who would be women of any age and any class, willing and able to teach a little group, or even a single individual.

The organisation would have to be more elastic than any we associate with military discipline. I should like to think that it could include not only the classes at continuation schools in great centres, but also the seamstress and the cook who exchange lessons in their respective crafts, and the capable housewife, who will take in and train an unemployed factory girl to tide her over the bad time.

I think the experiences of the last few weeks have prepared us for some such effort. The need of training for women of all classes is proved by incidents which most of us have met with—such as a sewing-meeting where fifty society ladies met to make shirts, and discovered that not one of them could cut out! Moreover, women are ready to learn; this is shown by the zeal for ambulance classes.

Among those who should be specially encouraged to 'enlist' would be the wives of reservists and recruits. These need something besides financial support; they are passing through a time of great emotional stress, and most of them have time on their hands now that they have no man 'to do for.' Occupation and a fresh interest might save them from the depression and the temptations which inevitably beset many of them.

Any to whom this suggestion commends itself could at once begin to organise a 'company' in their own neighbourhood, and in their own way. From such scattered efforts some organising genius might later on evolve a national scheme."

A SINGLE STANDARD.

A correspondent who sent The Common Cause leading article, "The Virtue of Temperance," to a Chief Sanitary Inspector, has received the following reply:—

Dear ———,—Many thanks for yours of yesterday and enclosures.

As one with more than half-a-century's experience of total abstinence, and with a very intimate knowledge of life in the poorest London districts, I am quite certain that what measures are taken with a view to preventing the unnecessary consumption of alcoholic liquors must be applied to both sexes with equal vigour.—Yours faithfully, —. ——,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

We rejoice to know that long experience has confirmed what justice demands—an equal moral standard for both sexes in the virtue of temperance.

BELGIAN HOSTEL.

The Hon. Treasurer to the Belgian Hostel organised by the South Kensington Branch of the London Society appeals for donations. Her address is 30B, Lexham Gardens, not Seaham Gardens, as appeared in error last week.

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THE N.U.W.S.S. PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

The N.U. Provincial Council met at Wallasey, on Thursday, November 12th, in the Liscard Concert Hall. The following resolutions were passed :—

(1) **"The Provincial Council of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies desires to place on record its satisfaction with the ready and generous response given by the Societies in the Union to the call upon them, published in THE COMMON CAUSE of August 7th, to render all possible aid to our country in the great national crisis into which we were then suddenly plunged.**

"The Provincial Council urges the Societies and members of the Union to continue by every means in their power, all efforts which have for their object the sustaining of the vital strength of the nation, so long as such special efforts may be required."

(2) **"That this Council supports the Prime Minister's statement, made in his speech at Dublin, on September 26th, 1914, of principles which should govern the settlement after the war, and recommends the General Council of the Union to pass a resolution calling upon societies and members of the Union to work for the building up of public opinion on these lines."**

In his speech at Dublin, Mr. Asquith said :—

"I should like, beyond this enquiry into causes and motives, to ask your attention and that of my fellow-countrymen to the end which in this war we ought to keep in view. Forty-four years ago, at the time of the war of 1870, Mr. Gladstone used these words: 'The greatest triumph of our time will be the enthronement of the idea of public right as the governing idea of European politics.'

"Nearly fifty years have passed. Little progress, it seems, has as yet been made towards that good and beneficent change, but it seems to me to be now at this moment as good a definition as we can have of our European policy—the idea of public right. What does it mean when translated into concrete terms? It means first and foremost the clearing of the ground by a definite repudiation of militarism as the governing factor in the relation of States and of the future moulding of the European world.

"It means next that room must be found and kept for the independent existence and free development of the smaller nationalities, each with a corporate consciousness of its own. Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, and Scandinavian countries, Greece, and the Balkan States—they must be recognised as having exactly as good a title as their more powerful neighbours, more powerful in strength and in wealth, to a place in the sun, and it means, finally, or it ought to mean perhaps, by a slow and gradual process, the substitution for force, for the clash of competing ambitions, for grouping and alliances and a precarious equipoise, of a real European partnership based on the recognition of equal right and established and enforced by a common will.

"A year ago this would have sounded like a Utopian idea. It is probably one that may not or will not be realised either to-day or to-morrow. If and when this war is decided in favour of the Allies it will at once come within the range, and before long within the grasp, of European statesmanship."

(3) **"That the N.U. should call upon the organised women of the world to combine in agitation for political freedom, in the belief that the enfranchisement of women would facilitate the settlement of international disputes by arbitration, and the establishment of permanent peace."**

Urgency was granted for the following resolution, which was carried unanimously :—

(4) **"That the N.U.W.S.S. Provincial Council emphatically protests against the instructions issued to the police by the Home Office at the request of the Army Council to keep the wives and dependents of soldiers engaged on active service under police surveillance."**

A crowded public meeting was held in the evening, the speakers being Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Swanwick and Miss I. O. Ford.

THE N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

"Les Dames très Sérieuses."

Two units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital are now ready, one for France, and one for Serbia, and will be starting shortly. Two doctors and ten nurses are also very soon going out, at the request of Dr. Desfargues, the eminent Belgian physician, whom Dr. Alice Hutchison, in response to a telegram, went out to Belgium to see. Dr. Hutchison also saw Dr. Le Conne, head of the Belgium Red Cross, and, in Paris, Madame Tamouse, who said she was looking for a château in which to put our hospital, which she had heard was being sent out by "une association de dames très sérieuses."

A request has been made for a fully equipped hospital ship to ply between Dunkirk and Dover, which the Committee hopes to deal with when the two units have started. They are ready, and only await instructions where to go. When they have started, the Committee will only want to know how much money is coming in before proceeding with other plans. Volunteers and gifts of all sorts have come in splendidly, but money is still wanted. Hon. Treas., Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock.

PAWNBROKERS' CHARGES.

In regard to the case reported in The Common Cause, of excessive charges made by a pawnbroker, we are asked to state that, under pressure, the charge was finally withdrawn, probably because the man realised that it could not be sustained in a court of law. "A Pawnbroker's Wife" asks us to explain that no suggestion that such excessive charges are the custom, was intended by the writer.

Report of Work Done in Birmingham.

As soon as the war broke out, in August, the Society offered its organisation, officers, and the voluntary services of its members, amounting to just under a thousand, to the Citizens' Committee. The offer was somewhat coldly accepted, but before many days were passed the Citizens' Committee were continually sending urgent messages round to the Suffrage Office, "Please send us a dozen intelligent ladies at once!" "Please find us a secretary for this or that work," and other similar requests; while after the third week, the Head Organiser of Relief Work, a strong Anti-Suffragist, said: "Your Society has been our main stand-by."

As the weary weeks of the war went on, and the enormous organisation for all kinds of relief settled into smooth working, Suffragists found themselves drafted into various posts in every part of the city.

Twenty-two of the most experienced social workers, men and women, members of the Society, are officers of the District Committees, into which the Citizens' Committee is now organised. Seven are members of the Executive. There are only four women members of the Executive in all, three of whom are Suffragists. Seventy-one are authorised "Visitors"; seventy-six are helping with work of various sorts, giving out of paid sewing to unemployed women, &c.; nineteen are giving regular assistance with secretarial work; eighty-six are filling various miscellaneous posts connected with relief work; and the University-Fabian Society has registered through the Suffrage Society, also, for work in boys' and girls' clubs; in addition to which a large number of our members are busy with Care Committee work.

Birmingham is an industrial centre for an immense variety of metal trades and others, employing about 100,000 women and girls, many thousands of whom are now on half time. As a woman's wages do not keep her in a state of physical efficiency at any time this means a great deal of long-drawn-out suffering silently endured, which places the girl victims of it in peculiar danger. Owing to the difficulty and delay of getting any money for the employment of women from any of the national funds raised, the Suffrage Society has inaugurated schemes of its own. Opportunities of domestic training with a small wage attached have been offered the jewellery girls, with excellent results; The Society of Friends opened a workroom where sewing is given out; Mrs. Osler has had a workroom in her house from the beginning of the war, where middle-aged women who usually gain a living by working for small shops or little dress-making establishments (a very respectable type of women) can earn a small weekly wage. Here orders have been received for charity and other work, even the mending of a great pile of boxing gloves for boys' clubs. The Bournville Branch of the Birmingham Society has also a Workroom for the Cotteridge district, which is busy at present making maternity bags, and sets of infant's clothing for gifts to poor mothers. They have obtained a small grant from the Citizens' Committee, and orders and donations come in well.

Mrs. Julian Osler and a sub-committee of the Suffrage Committee have opened a dinner room for poor mothers and little ones under school age in the hard hit jewellery district, generous gifts for which have been obtained; here one of our members, Dr. Olive Elgood Turner, gives free advice and medicine to expectant and nursing mothers from the district.

On November 10th we opened another large Workroom for unemployed women in the Ladywood district, where the Vicar has lent a convenient room for the purpose. The wages given here are 3½d. an hour. Another workroom for girls has been opened by the Birmingham White Ribbon Committee of the British Women's Temperance Society, to whom the Citizens' Committee has given a grant. The Women's Co-operative Guild, Women's Labour League, and Railway Women's Guild, sent a deputation to the authorities asking that special grants of food and clothing should be made to maternity cases suffering from the war, and specially requesting that only women visitors should be given charge of such cases. We are glad to report that a resolution to grant these demands has been passed by the Citizens' Committee.

It remains to mention the Lady Mayoress's Depôt for providing clothes for soldiers and hospitals, reference to which has already been made in THE COMMON CAUSE. It is believed to be one of the largest depôts in the kingdom and has received many visits of inspection from other cities. It is constantly supplied by over 100 Societies, and sends out several thousand garments each week. There is now a second-hand department added for women's and children's clothes. Nearly two thousand Belgiums are now receiving hospitality in Birmingham and the district, a piece of work which has also absorbed many of our most active members. And finally the Society of Friends has done splendid work in assisting stranded Germans, and helping the unhappy wives and families of interned enemies.

On November 6th a Meeting was held in the Grand Hotel to explain to the members the various activities of the Society in the present crisis, and to appeal for help for the Workroom for unemployed women. Altogether, about £200 has been given, but more will be needed if the Room is to be kept going after Christmas.

The Society is now helping the National Union of Women Workers, who have organised a Branch of the League of Honour in Birmingham. We are arranging a Town Hall Meeting, at which Mrs. Creighton has kindly promised to speak, and the Suffrage Offices will be lent to the League of Honour for the present to save them the expense of a central office. The whole effect of the work seems to be a wonderful breaking down of the old prejudices against the Society, many prominent Antis helping with funds, and new members being continually gained.

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146, STRAND, W.C.
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LONDON.

Lorgnettes.

WORK OF THE N.U. IN STOCKPORT.

Immediately after the town's meeting to elect the Citizen Committees, the Stockport Society for Women's Suffrage held a meeting to consider how it could help. As a result, many ladies left their names as willing to give service, and the Secretary of the Theosophical Society offered, on its behalf, the loan of their rooms in Market Place, the very centre of the town. This office, which proved a veritable godsend, was put in charge of Miss Ellen C. Wilkinson, M.A., an organiser sent by the Manchester and District Federation, who promptly circularised the various political and religious organisations, asking them to inform their women members that voluntary workers could be registered there, and would receive advice. All who registered were classified according to district and abilities, and this list has proved very useful to the Town Hall authorities, who greatly helped the work by referring all ladies who communicated with them to the women's office. The President of the W.S.S. undertook to pay the weekly office expenses, a not inconsiderable sum, as its work increases. While always keeping in view the principle that voluntary work must never replace paid work, ladies were supplied to the Ward Committee as visitors and investigators (Stockport being so enlightened as to place all investigation work in the hands of women). Others were drafted to help in emergency clerical work, and with the food stations. The Belgian Committee, and the collectors for the Queen's Work for Women Fund were largely recruited from our lists. Organisations of every kind, tradespeople, and officials have helped the W.S.S. to make the office a success.

It was obvious, however, that the most devoted voluntary service could not supply the needs of Stockport, where out of a total of about 12,000 women workers, 2,500 are totally unemployed and 7,000 under-employed, because the two staple trades, cotton and knitting, were practically closed down at the outbreak of war. Our organiser commandeered a large disused room over the offices, and with the tactful and gracious help of the Mayoress, machines and tables were borrowed, and a beginning was made with twenty women. Appeals through the Press brought a large number of parcels of new material and second-hand clothing, and a lady who proved to be a genius at cutting out offered her services, as we had no money to employ a skilled forewoman.

The success of the workroom was assured by a very favourable Board of Trade report, and we now have permission to employ 150 women. An Executive Committee for Women's Employment has been formed, of which our organiser is secretary. Dinners are provided for the workwomen, for which they pay a penny. These are arranged by a prominent member of the local Suffrage Society, Miss Raynor.

SCARBOROUGH.

Members of the Scarborough Society are interesting themselves in preparing for women patrols, while others are helping with various soldiers' clubs which have been organised in the town. Some of the Committee are also trying to help the Scarborough Girls' Club in extending its work by procurring additional workers. The Market stall was run the whole of August, and part of September, the position of women in war time being put prominently forward, as also the relief work which women are doing, all over the country to prove their title to citizenship. Scarborough being a prohibited area, no Belgian Refugees have been sent to the town, but to help them in their sad plight, the Society organised a most successful Café Chantant which took place in the Grand Hotel on October 15th, nearly 500 people were present, and the substantial sum of £68 18s. 2d. was sent to the Belgian Minister as a result of the effort. It is hoped to raise another sum of money, by a Whist-Drive, which will shortly take place, for the Scottish Federations Women's Hospital.

In the early days of the war the sum of £67 17s. 8d. was raised and sent to the Mayor, earmarked for the payment of wages for work done by women in distress during the war, except £5 which was especially set aside for the S.S.F.A. Three members of the W.S.S. Committee were elected to the Mayor's Committee.

A register was opened at the Office as the quickest and most effective way of organising help, and as a result many members made garments and comforts for the sailors and soldiers, which were sent to the Mayoress' Committee, while others who undertook to visit regularly those in distress, were put into communication with the Guild of Social Welfare, and the S.S.F.A.

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On ordinary deposit accounts interest is paid at the following rates:—

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£3½ per cent. per annum, subject to one day's notice of withdrawal in respect of not more than £5, and to one month's notice in respect of the balance.

£4 per cent. per annum, subject to three months' notice of withdrawal.

Current Accounts are opened in the usual way.

Any further information may be had on application. W. W. HAYES, *Manager.*

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss K. D. Courtney.
Miss C. E. Marshall (Parliamentary).
Miss Emily M. Leaf (Press).
Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Auerbach.

Secretary:
Miss Crookenden.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1980 Victoria.

The N.U. Labour Exchange.

This week's report of the Labour Exchange is very satisfactory. One woman writes: "I hear I am not indebted to the N.U. for commission, but I certainly owe it a very big debt of gratitude for all the trouble it has taken. Please accept my deepest and heartfelt thanks." Of the same lady we hear from her employer: "She has started in this office, and is doing well." Of another girl we hear that she is a changed girl since she got regular work, after being out of work so long. Her employers are so satisfied that, although the present work will only last during the war, they intend to see that she does not lack work when the war is over. Last week, on receipt of a message through the International Women's Relief Committee, we supplied three women to Scotland Yard at twenty-four hours' notice for work in connection with Continental passenger traffic. We are glad to say that the salary offered was adequate to the work required. Our difficulty is the unskilled worker. The skilled worker, with modern, up-to-date certificates and experience, passes *through* our hands; her unskilled, uncertificated sister stays *on* our hands.

There are more posts waiting to be filled, and we have an inquiry with regard to the possibility of supplying women accountants, and the proper salary that should be paid. One case of unemployment that we should like to help is that of a Swiss hair specialist, who tells us that her usual clients are so busy that they have no time to employ her. We shall be glad to supply further particulars.

Literature Report.

The Scottish Federation Calendar is now on sale. It is a standing calendar, with a strut. Size 11 by 6¾ inches, cost 6d.

The Menderies.

The Mending business is developing so rapidly that we want to be able to collect and deliver goods in the London area. Will anyone lend us a car for this purpose or a horse for our van?

We should like to make another plea for material for girls' outfits for domestic service.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE HOTEL MEETING, November 3rd, 1914.

DONATIONS

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Miss Alston	2	0	0	Sir W. and Lady Tilden	2	2	0
Mrs. Brandt	5	0	0	Dr. A. Hugh Thompson	10	0	0
Miss H. Chadwick	10	0		Mrs. David Waterlow	2	2	0
Miss Coxhead	10	0		Miss C. Crichton Stuart	1	1	0
Miss Drew	2	0	0	Mrs. Hugh Thompson	5	0	0
Miss Greville	5	5	0	Miss Emily Leith	1	1	0
Miss D. Lungley	2	2	0	Miss E. M. Rope	5	0	0
Miss Milman	2	0	0	Miss A. M. Allen	25	0	0
Mrs. Gillie	1	0	0	Cash Collection	28	9	6
Mrs. E. Sage		5	0				
Sister Emily Alice	1	0	0		£103	7	6
Mr. F. T. Swanwick	2	0	0				

Active Service Fund.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Already Acknowledged	2,183	5	11	Staff of Berkhampsted School for Girls	2	0	0
Miss Marion Johnstone	1	0	0	Mrs. Edwards	2	2	0
Miss H. R. Basden		10	0	Miss L. Gordon Roberts	1	10	0
Miss Bertha Lowe	1	1	0	Mrs. L. E. Kirkby	1	0	0
Anonymous		15	0	Miss Florence G. Glasier	5	0	0
Miss E. G. Norbury	1	0	0	Miss K. Craven Hodson	2	0	0
Misses Lucas	4	4	0	Heathfield and District W.S.S.	3	1	7
Mrs. H. B. Taylor	2	2	0	Mrs. Benson	5	0	0
An Old Age Pensioner		1	0	Miss Inez de Reyes	1	0	0
Widow of Crimean Veteran		1	0	Miss C. M. Forster (third monthly donation)		5	0
G. G. (Lancaster)		5	0	Miss I. M. Evans		2	6
Miss Mabel Crookenden	7	0	0	Miss E. Grace Oates		2	6
Miss Huckwell	1	0	0	Miss White		10	0
Mrs. H. J. Renshaw	5	0	0	Mrs. Dobell	1	0	0
Mr. John Lind	5	0	0	At 50, Parliament Street—			
Miss Celia Wray		10	0	Mrs. A. M. Drew	5	0	0
Anonymous, per Miss Jacob, Cooking		1	6	Miss P. Fawcett	8	0	0
Miss M. M. Walker		7	6	Mrs. Brown	1	0	0
Miss A. Martin Leake	2	0	0	Miss Jessie P. Scott		10	0
Mr. H. Mosenthal	15	15	0	Shilling Fund		10	0
Mrs. S. M. Robinson	5	0	0	Anonymous		11	4
Miss V. Partington (second monthly donation)		5	0	*Received for Scottish Women's Hospital	596	12	0
Miss M. Griffith		2	6		£2,876	3	4
Mrs. Peacock	1	0	0				
Miss B. L. Harris	2	0	0				

*The names of the individual contributors will appear later under "The Scottish Women's Hospital."

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

THE CAMP "COMMON CAUSE" FUND.

Several of our readers have written to express their approval of the plan for keeping our camps supplied with THE COMMON CAUSE, and subscriptions have been sent or promised. We have a list to begin with of 135 Y.M.C.A. centres to which papers should be sent. Some of our subscribers are offering to send on their own copies. Please send us (1) 6s. 6d. to supply one reading-room, or (2) a promise to send on your own copy. We will send you the address to which it should be forwarded.

We have received the following donations towards supplying camps with THE COMMON CAUSE:—

Miss Stewart, 2s. 6d. monthly; Anonymous, £1; Miss M. D. Jordan, 5s. Mrs. Rathbone, Mrs. Pearson, Miss K. Pearse Gould, Miss Venables, Mrs. Spencer, Mrs. Hudson, and Miss Henderson have offered to send their copies weekly to camps and the Lady Clare Annesley is sending three copies regularly to Members of Parliament.

"THE COMMON CAUSE" SELLING.

We wish to bring THE COMMON CAUSE before a much larger public, in order that they may know how women are helping their country and how they can do their part. No better way can be found than street selling. Will you help?

A list of important London pitches is kept at the Shop, 50, Parliament Street, and at the "C.C." office, and we can do with any number of volunteers. Every seller should be provided with a poster (to be obtained with the papers), which, pasted on cardboard, can be slung on the wrist.

Depots where Papers and Posters can be Obtained.

MARBLE ARCH DEPOT.—Copies can be obtained from the Lady Clare Annesley, 44 Great Cumberland Place, W., on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, between 2-3 p.m.

HIGH STREET, KENSINGTON, DEPOT.—Mrs. Hogg, 23, Hornton Street, High Street, Kensington.

W.C. DISTRICT.—Mrs. Paul, 45, Regent's Square, W.C. Mrs. Paul will be glad of additional volunteers, as this district contains some splendid pitches. Papers will be distributed to helpers any day except Sunday.

CITY DEPOT.—Miss Gertrude Cohn, c/o The South-West Africa Co., 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C. Any member who can spare only half-an-hour when passing through the city is urged to call on Miss Cohn, who will give full particulars.

The following additional donations have been received for paying unemployed women to sell THE COMMON CAUSE: Miss Rosa Button (monthly for six months, first instalment), 5s.; Mrs. Lynell, £1; Mrs. Shuttleworth, 5s.; Mr. T. Tindle Anderson, Jun. (second monthly instalment), 2s. 6d.; Miss Griffith, 1s.

LONDON SOCIETY.

Through an oversight, the changes of secretaries which have taken place lately in Branches of the London Society were omitted in the list of Societies of the N.U. published last week. We hope to publish these changes in our next issue.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

For list see back page.

REPORTS FROM OUR SOCIETIES.

We hope to be able to give more space next week to news from our Societies, several interesting reports being unavoidably held over.

Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service.

The list of donations forwarded to us brings the total amount received up to £4,616 18s. 9d., but owing to pressure on our space we can only print part this week.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per Third List	2,815	10	6
"S." Barnstaple		10	0
T. Fothergill, Jr., Esq.		10	0
Mrs. Hozier (For Servian Unit)		5	0
Mrs. E. C. Wilson (For French or Belgium Unit)	1	1	0
Miss Margaret Glen		5	0
Mrs. J. Ward	3	0	0
Crofthead Co-Op. Soc., Fauldhouse, per J. Dodds, Esq., Hon. Treas.	2	2	0
Miss Constance Crichton Stuart	1	1	0
Miss W. Simpson		10	0
Mrs. A. Nevill Ditmas		5	0
Saltburn W.S.S., per Miss Leakey (For French Unit)	2	0	0
Miss E. Morrison		5	0
Miss McKenzie	1	0	0
Miss Joan Cavendish Bentinck	2	0	0
Scalby W.S.S., per Miss Jessie Barker	8	0	0
Basingstoke W.S.S., per Miss Mary Forrester	10	0	0
Mrs. Frank Dawes	25	0	0
Miss N. Thomson		10	0
Mrs. Lorimer	2	2	0
Miss Stodart	5	0	0
Shropshire W.S.S., per Mrs. Harley (to name a bed "The Shropshire W.S.S.")	25	0	0
Portsmouth W.S.S.	1	1	0
Mrs. A. Whittier and Friends		10	0
C. G. Evans, Esq. (For Servian Unit)	2	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Ross (For French or Belgian Unit)	5	0	0
Miss Janie Thomson	3	0	0
Crawthorne W.S.S. and Friends, per Mr. Hamilton Ramsay (Crawthorne W.S.S. £1, Mrs. H. Ramsay £1, Misc. H. Ramsay 10s., Mrs. Eton 10s.)	3	0	0
Mrs. Hugh Ross	5	0	0
Miss Margt. Harvey	2	2	0
Miss Sloane	1	1	0
Miss Irene F. Williams	1	0	0
Miss A. Walker	5	0	0
Dr. Eliz. Sloan-Chesser	1	1	0
Mrs. S. E. Eve		10	0
Mrs. Guy Burnett	1	10	0
Mrs. Vulliamy	5	0	0
Miss Agness Harrison	1	0	0
Miss Annie Blondfield	5	5	0
Miss Jean Kemp	5	0	0
Miss Constance Boyd		10	0
Miss Eliz. Stevenson	1	0	0
Miss R. D. Clarke	1	10	0
"S." Greenock	1	1	0
Mrs. E. W. Turner	1	1	0
The Wilmslow and Styal W.S.S., per Mrs. E. Byers	4	0	0

Corrections to last week's List.

(1) Harwich W.S.S. £100 should read "Hawick Society, Flag Day, £100."
(2) St. Andrews W.S.S., &c., for "from street" read "Mrs. Stout, £10."
(3) Holt W.S.S. per Miss Louise Packard *towards naming bed*, £15.
(4) For "E.W. Don." read—
N.U. Donations, earmarked for Scottish Hospital, £106 14s., per Mrs. Auerbach.
N.U. Donations, Kingsway Hall Meeting, &c., £32 3s.

Of Exceptional Interest to Women.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT AND THE WAR.

THE WOMAN'S VIEW ON WAR PROBLEMS.

Interesting articles by and interviews with the leaders of the Suffrage Movement, together with a comprehensive résumé of the United Suffragists and other important Societies, appear in a Supplement published with our issue dated November 21st, profusely illustrated.

A Special Interview with **Mrs. DESPARD** (sister of General French), President of the Women's Freedom League, is a feature. Also an Exclusive Interview with **Mrs. PANKHURST**, illustrated by page photograph taken specially for this article.

Contributions by **Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D., THE COUNTESS OF SELBORNE**, and other well-known women of the day.

The International Suffrage Society, fully illustrated, with portraits of the leading representatives on the Continent and in America.

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SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Forthcoming Meetings.

Correspondents are urged to write distinctly when sending particulars of meetings.

NOVEMBER 20.

Bristol—40, Park Street—First Aid Class—Lecture by Dr. Marion Linton 7.45

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home" Miss Williamson, M.A. (Historical Association of Scotland) on "Flanders, the Netherlands and Germany" 4.30

Solihull—Public Hall—Miss Muriel Matters on "Women's Work in War Time"—Chair, Mrs. Julian Osler—Proceeds to be devoted to equipping a Bed in a Field Hospital at the Front) 8.0

NOVEMBER 21.

Bo'ness (Edinburgh Society)—Masonic Temple—Public Meeting—Speaker, Miss Alice Low—Subjects: (1) "How I escaped from Germany." (2) "The Relief Work of the National Union" 3.30

NOVEMBER 22.

Hyde Park—Near Reformer's Tree—Speakers, Mrs. Whalley and others 3.0

Birmingham—Hampstead Road—Men's Class—Speaker, Mrs Ring 3.0

Bradford—Sunday Society, Laycock's Temperance Hotel, Albion Court—Miss I. O. Ford on "Women and War" 6.30

NOVEMBER 23.

Bristol—40, Park Street—Working Party 3.0

Hoylake—League of Honour Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 8.0

Leith (Edinburgh Society)—U. F. Church Hall, Gt. Junction Street—Miss Alice Low on "The Present War"—Chair, The Rev. M. R. Scott 3.0

NOVEMBER 24

East Bristol—Miss Tanner on "Elizabeth Fry."

40, Park Street—Ambulance Class 7.45

Kidderminster—B.W.T.A. League of Honour Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 7.30

Tunbridge Wells—18, Crescent Road—Annual Meeting for Members—Hostesses, Madame Grand (President) and Miss Tindale 3.30

NOVEMBER 25.

Bristol—Totterdown—Speaker, Mrs. Cross—College Green Adult School—Speaker, Miss Tanner 3.0

Chelsea—Clock House Chelsea Embankment—Hostess, Miss Huntingdon—Speaker, Miss Rinder 3.0

Gateshead—Bewick Hall, High West Street—Miss St. John on "The Patriot's League of Honour and its Work in Newcastle"—Soloist, Miss Crosby 3.0

Glasgow—Charing Cross Halls—Public Meeting on behalf of the Scottish Women's Hospital—Speakers, Mr. R. W. Seton Watson, Dr. Sarolea, Dr. Elsie Inglis, Mr. D. H. Low—Chair, Colonel Denny.

NOVEMBER 26.

East Grinstead—Suffrage Club—25, High Street—Mr Ashdon Johnson on "How to Ensure a Lasting Peace" 7.30

Glasgow—202, Hope Street—Miss Morris and the Rev. W. J. Street on "The Emergency at Home—Relieving Agencies, Hints for Visitors" 4.0

NOVEMBER 27.

Bristol—Fine Arts Academy—Public Meeting—Speakers, Mrs. Whalley, Miss G. Cooke—Chair, His Honour Judge Stanger 8.0

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home" 4.30

"COMMON CAUSE" Fountain Pens, price 3s. 6d. each. Non-leakable, can be carried in any position. Solid 14-carat gold nib. Apply, sending P.O. for 3s. 8d. (2d. being for postage), to the Manager, "Common Cause," 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. (State whether fine, medium, or broad nib required.)

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PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Ten words, 9d. per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Limited, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

FREE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.—West London Mission, Kingsway, W.C., Sunday, November 29th, at 6.30 p.m. Special service conducted by Rev. J. E. Rattenbury. Prayers from the Collegium and special hymns will be sung.

MR. W. TUDOR-POLE will speak on "The Deeper Aspect of the Great War" (Chair, Mrs. Despard), Saturday, November 28th, 8 p.m., Caxton Hall, Westminster. Tickets, 2s. and 1s., from Secretary, 40, Courtfield-gardens, S.W Some free seats.

THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (N.U.W.S.S.) Clearing House for Voluntary Workers and Information Bureau, 58, Victoria-street, S.W. Donations for the Society's Women's Service Fund urgently needed by the Treasurer, Honble. Mrs. Spencer Graves.

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